

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT



of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager

for the year

1964

Alton Urban District Council.

*With the Compliments of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager.*

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Alton, Hants.*

D. M. LING,
C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Chairman of Council

Councillor (Mrs.) C. Kerridge

Vice-Chairman of Council

Councillor J. Bolton

Public Health Committee

Chairman

Councillor B. P. C. Hamblin

Members as at 31/12/64

Councillor (Mrs.) M. E. Beard	Councillor (Mrs.) C. Kerridge
„ R. A. Carr	„ J. D. Mitton
„ J. Bolton	„ W. R. Self
„ Mrs. C. Harckham	

Representatives on the Joint Slaughterhouse Committee

Councillors B. P. C. Hamblin, Mrs. C. Harckham, E. T. Hutley
and J. H. Knight

Representatives on the Alton (No. 7)

District Health Sub-Committee

Councillors Mrs. M. M. Brockes and Mrs. C. Harckham

Staff

<i>Medical Officer of Health:</i>	A. G. Farr, M.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.CHIR., D.P.H., D.T.M. and H., D.I.H.
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<i>Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager :</i>	D. M. Ling, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
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<i>Additional Public Health Inspector:</i>	A. G. Merriman, M.A.P.H.I.
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<i>Clerical Assistant:</i>	J. J. McCarthy
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<i>Rodent Operator:</i>	H. Thompson
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<i>Aged Persons' Warden:</i>	Mrs. D. Gray
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ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
HIGH STREET, ALTON, HANTS.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1964, prepared in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and dealing with sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the Alton Urban District.

Dr. R. L. Goodey resigned his appointment at the end of March, and I was appointed to succeed him, but it is with regret that I write that this will be my first and last report to you. I have received much goodwill and help during my period of office, and I am indeed grateful to you, Sir, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, to other Councillors and to the Clerk and Officers of the Council for encouragement and assistance. I owe particular thanks to Mr. Ling and the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and loyal support at all times.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. FARR,
Medical Officer of Health.

Part 1

General Report of the Medical Officer of Health

General and Social.

There has been little change during the past year. The slum clearance and house building programme has progressed with the elimination of certain congested areas and the extension of the Anstey Manor Estate.

The Public Swimming Bath was opened and has been very well patronised.

Comments on Statistics listed in Part II of the Report.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 9,600. This is an increase of 390 on 1963. The estimated increase in 1963 was only 130, so it would appear that the Town's rate of growth is quickening.

Infectious Diseases.

(1) Measles.

There was a sharp outbreak in June and July when some 70 cases were notified. According to the usual pattern of measles 1964 should have been a year of low incidence, but in fact there were far more cases than in 1963.

(2) Whooping Cough.

Two cases only were recorded, neither severe.

(3) Meningococcal Meningitis.

There was one case, a girl of 15.

(4) Food Poisoning.

One incident occurred of apparently Staphylococcal food-poisoning in which an Alton family was affected and secondary cases were produced by one of the family who handled food elsewhere.

There were several other incidents during the year but in no case were Salmonella organisms found.

(5) Dysentery.

Two cases of Dysentery due to *Shigella flexneri* occurred. The patients had recently returned from Africa and no other cases were reported. They recovered with treatment and stool cultures remained negative.

Immunisation Schemes.

The Ministry of Health scheme of immunisation has remained unchanged during the year and most children now receive Triple Antigen (against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) plus the oral poliomyelitis vaccine before their first birthday.

The following tables are compiled from records received from local General Practitioners and Clinics and shows the number of children who have been immunised against the various diseases:—

(1) Triple Immunisation.

Date of Birth				Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Tetanus	
				Prim.	Bstr.	Prim.	Bstr.	Prim.	Bstr.
1964	...	...	...	81	-	80	-	69	1
1963	...	...	...	77	2	72	2	70	1
1962	...	...	...	15	2	13	2	11	2
1961	...	...	...	1	-	1	-	-	-
1960	...	...	...	1	2	-	2	1	2
1955-59	...	...	...	16	165	2	51	2	129
1950-54	...	...	...	2	84	-	20	-	8
Totals				193	255	168	77	153	143

(2) Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Date of Birth	Primary Doses	Reinforcing Doses
1964	15	} 199
1963	103	
1962	25	
1961	6	
1943-60	22	
1933-42	3	
Others	3	
Totals ...	177	199

(3) Vaccination against Smallpox.

Smallpox vaccination is given between the ages of one and two. The records show:—

Primary Vaccination of children under two	...	119
Re-Vaccination—other ages	...	11
Re-Vaccination—all ages	...	60

(4) B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. was given at Eggar's Grammar School to children of 13 as under:—

Number of Children	Heaf tested	...	...	40
„	„	positive	...	4
„	„	absent	...	3
„	„	given B.C.G.	...	33

The percentage of children Heaf positive was 10.8%.

Water Supply.

This remains satisfactory. The fluoride content is less than one part per million.

Sewerage.

Plans are in progress for the construction of a new sewage disposal works.

There is a problem in the disposal of waste from the Alton Breweries. One Brewery is operating a pilot scheme in purifying its own waste.

Swimming Baths.

The new Public Swimming Bath, built by public subscriptions, was opened during the year. It has been closely supervised by the Public Health Inspectors during its early months and the teething troubles have been successfully minimised. On busy days the attendance has been over 1,000, which testifies to the demand and to the public's appreciation of the Council's part in facilitating the venture.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

There were no cases.

Accidents on the Road.

Period 1st January, 1964, to 31st December, 1964:—

Number of persons killed over 15 years	...	3
" " " under 15 years	...	1
Number of persons injured over 15 years	...	52
" " " under 15 years	...	10
Non-injury Accidents	... ... ...	55

Accidents in the Home.

Total for all types of Accidents in the Home was 65 for the year.

Health Education.

Posters were exhibited throughout the town at various times of the year, depicting Accidents, The Home, Smoking and Cancer, Immunisation Schemes and other subjects.

Talks were given by the Health Inspector to schools and local organisations, but perhaps the most impressive of Hygiene propaganda was made during the "Typhoid in Corned Beef" Campaign following Aberdeen's unfortunate outbreak, when all purveyors of Corned Beef were visited and their stocks examined by the Public Health staff and the attention of all food handlers drawn to the need for extreme caution and complete compliance with the Codes of Practice for Food handlers.

The Elderly.

During the year, a survey of elderly people in the town was organised by the Area Welfare Officer, with the valuable assistance of a number of voluntary workers, and the Council asked

to support a "Meals on Wheels" service.

The service would supply to the aged and infirm two good cooked meals per week, delivered to the house, for a small fee, the remainder of the cost of the service being borne by the District Council and the County Council.

There is no doubt that the service is needed. With the co-operation of the W.V.S. helpers, it is hoped that a commencement of the scheme can be made early next year.

PROVISIONS OF GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Devolution of Health Functions.

On the 1st April, 1953, there came into operation a scheme of devolution of Health functions to existing District Health Sub-Committees. In this area, the No. 7 (Alton District) Health Sub-Committee comprises the area of the Alton Rural District Council and Urban District Council, to which sub-committee both Councils nominate members. Among the resolutions made were:—

"In order to make the fullest possible use of local knowledge and to widen interest there be devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area; in particular services operating under Section 22 (Care of Mothers and Young Children), Section 24 (Health Visiting), Section 26 (Vaccination) and Section 28 (Prevention of illness, care and aftercare, so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, as amended, provided that those functions are exercised in such a way as to conform with the existing scheme."

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Service is administered by the County Council who supply monthly details of journeys to the District Health Committee. The ambulances for the area are stationed at Alton.

Applications for the use of ambulances are made to:—

The Aldershot Ambulance Station
(Telephone: Aldershot 2244)

Child Welfare.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Assembly Rooms, Alton. This centre is for the attendance of mothers and babies, and children under five. Activities at the clinic, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, weighing and the distribution of welfare foods and certain Medicaments.

National welfare foods are distributed from the following centres in Alton Urban District:—

Inwood Health Clinic. Tuesday & Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Health Visiting.

The Health Visitors for Alton are Mrs. J. E. Morrow, 13 Whitedown, Alton (Tel. Alton 2097), and Miss D. McKenzie, c/o East Worldham Manor, East Worldham (Tel. E. Worldham 3191).

Home Help Service.

A scheme of domestic help is available. The helpers are experienced women carefully chosen for their suitability for the work. They will run the home carefully, their job being to take over the housewife's work.

Home Helps are available for the following type of cases:— when the housewife is sick or has to have an operation; when a new baby is expected; when several members of a household are ill at one time; and to give help to the elderly and infirm.

Application for a Home Help, accompanied by a medical certificate, should be made to the District Organiser. The charge depends on the hours worked and the income of the family after certain allowances have been made.

Division VII includes the Urban District of Alton and the Divisional Organiser now has her office at the Town Hall, Petersfield (Telephone: Petersfield 771/773), to whom application should be made for a Home Help.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations of clinical matter (sputum, swabs, etc.) and water, milk and foodstuffs are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester.

Chemical analyses of water, sewage, milk and other samples are carried out by arrangement with the Public Analyst, Southampton.

Thanks are expressed to the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Southampton, for their ready advice and assistance granted during the year.

Midwifery and Home Nursing.

These services are administered as follows:—

DISTRICT SERVED	NURSE	SERVICE GIVEN
Alton	Mrs. M. A. Staples, S.R.N., S.C.M., 1, Pond Cottages, Chawton, Alton	Midwifery and General Nursing
Alton	Miss E. J. Howton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.M. 14, Elmwood Close, Alton	„ „

Relief duties to cover holidays, sickness or emergency calls are undertaken by neighbouring nurse midwives.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A clinic is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at Alton General Hospital.

School Health Services.

Clinics are held as follows:—

Orthopaedic	Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton
Ear, nose and throat	Alton General Hospital
Dental	At Schools
Ophthalmic and orthoptic	Alton General Hospital
Child guidance	Health Centre, Winchester
Speech Therapy	Alton General Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics are held at Aldershot, Basingstoke and Winchester, whilst sanatoria are available at Bishopstoke, Chandler's Ford and Liphook.

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at Aldershot and Winchester.

Area Welfare Officer.

The Area Welfare Officer is Mr. W. Pepper, whose office is at 14 King George Avenue, Petersfield (Telephone Petersfield 1199—mornings only). Also at 94, Normandy Street, Alton (Tel. 3853), Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9.30-12.30.

Area Mental Welfare Officer.

Mr. A. C. Wood, Manor Park House, Aldershot (Telephone Aldershot 20395)

Part II (STATISTICS)

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	4,085
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1965)				£421,709
Sum represented by a 1d. rate (1964-65)				£1,691
Population (mid-1964)	...	...		9,600
Number of habitable dwellings (as at 1st April, 1965)			...	3,015

Medical Statistics.

Live Births

Number	...	...	...	...	178
Rate per 1,000 population			...	...	18.5
„ adjusted by Registrar-General's comparability factor (0.97 for Alton)	...	...	...	...	17.9
„ for England & Wales			...	...	18.4
Illegitimate as percentage of total live births	...	...	...	...	8.9

Still Births

Number	...	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	11.1
Total live and still births			...	...	180

Deaths

Number	...	...	...	...	103
Rate per 1,000 population			...	...	10.7
„ adjusted by Registrar-General's comparability factor (0.96 for Alton)	...	...	...	...	10.3
„ for England & Wales			...	...	11.3

Infant Mortality Rates (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Total (deaths under 1 year)	...	...		16.8
Legitimate	...	...	...	18.5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	nil
Neo-natal (deaths under 4 weeks)			...	16.8
Early neo-natal (deaths under 1 week				16.8
Perinatal (still births under 1 week per 1,000 total all births)		16.7

Maternal Mortality (including abortion).

Number	nil
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Causes of Death.

	Diseases	Male	Female	Total
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	-	2	2
11	" " lung and bronchus	2	-	2
12	" " breast ...	-	4	4
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	6	13
15	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia ...	1	-	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	12	13
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	13	11	24
19	Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	3	4
20	Other heart diseases ...	-	5	5
21	Other circulatory diseases ...	4	4	8
23	Pneumonia ...	2	-	2
24	Bronchitis ...	5	2	7
27	Gastritis,, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	1	2
31	Congenital malformations ...	1	-	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined causes	6	3	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	-	3
35	Suicide ...	1	1	2
	All causes ...	48	55	103

Deaths according to ages.

Age group	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 ...	3	-	3
1—9 ...	1	1	2
10—19 ...	-	-	-
20—29 ...	2	1	3
30—39 ...	-	-	-
40—49 ...	2	1	3
50—59 ...	14	8	22
60—69 ...	13	14	27
70—99 ...	13	30	43
	48	55	103

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the last 5 years.

Disease	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	-	5	3
Measles ...	4	123	1	24	192
Acute Pneumonia ...	2	5	1	6	-
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	2	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	-	-	-	3
Totals ...	17	131	4	35	193

Tuberculosis (details of new cases for the past 5 years).

Pulmonary	Male	1	1	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	2	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	Male	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	1	-	1
		2	1	3	-	1

ALTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector/Housing Manager for the year ended 31st December, 1964

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present by Report for the year 1964 on the sanitary circumstances of the district.

There were staff changes during the year; the Ministry's insistence on 100% meat inspection of all animals slaughtered in the area necessitated the employment of another fully qualified Public Health Inspector, and Mr. A. G. Merriman filled the post in February. Mr. Marvin, Rodent Operator and later Clerk, left the Council mid-year to go into private business, and Mr. H. Thompson was appointed part-time Pest Control Officer and Mr. J. J. McCarthy full-time Clerical Assistant.

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. A. G. Farr, who succeeded Dr. R. L. Goodey in March, and regret that this is the first and only year that he will be our Medical Officer of Health.

I particularly wish to thank Mr. Merriman for his ready and willing assistance in the district and the standard of the records maintained by Mr. McCarthy.

DUDLEY M. LING,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager.

SECTION I Sanitary Circumstances

Public Health Acts.

Complaints.

During the year the following list of complaints were recorded and subsequently investigated. It must be appreciated, of course, that some complaints are taken on the district and may never be recorded, as they are dealt with at the time. Efforts are made, however, to make the record as comprehensive as possible for back reference, if required. No complaints were received of a particularly unusual character, and the small number seems to indicate a fairly good standard of environmental health in the town.

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	5
Dampness	...	..	...	...	9
Dirty Dwellings	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage	...	...	...	...	2
Fencing	...	...	...	...	2
Food	...	...	...	...	6
Noise	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	63
Rent Control	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary Defects	...	...	...	...	15
Smells	...	...	...	...	4
Wasps	...	...	...	...	5
Total					123

Drainage.

Fortunately the drainage and sewerage in the town functioned very well from a public health viewpoint. However, some householders experienced trouble with overflowing cesspools and septic tanks in the unsewered area, and this called for emergency clearing. It is often found that septic tanks are never de-sludged, and from this I wonder how high is the percentage of those not functioning correctly. It appears that builders rarely instruct their customers on how to use the septic tank in new dwellings.

Public Conveniences.

The permanent conveniences are satisfactory, but I must comment on the standard of the temporary facilities set up for the Butts Fair twice a year and the annual Town Show. The time has come to do better than holes in the ground surrounded by canvas sheets. Although improvements were made during 1964, there is still a long way to go and I think that the relatively new mobile self-contained units should be encouraged and made more readily available for hire from local authorities or specialist firms. New permanent conveniences on the Butts are now being considered and the problem may be solved, as far as the Fair is concerned, within a year or so.

Filthy Premises.

Several complaints were received concerning a particular house in the town where conditions were found to be very poor and causing annoyance to the neighbours. The occupier is a collector of rubbish which is deposited all over the house and garden. After several fruitless attempts to get the accumulations removed an official collection was organised and after two trailer loads of debris were removed the house returned to a state where it could be cleaned out. Several structural repairs were also required, and these were organised after much persuasion. Throughout the whole episode it was apparent that in such a case it is useless to apply the Statutory action and the inevitable conclusion that the problem will re-occur and require constant surveillance.

Piggeries.

Various complaints were made about the smells, etc., that accompany the keeping of pigs. Strangely enough, the complaints came from the rural part of the area by and large, where pigs have been kept for a great many years. It is usually where either new buildings or new occupiers move in and the surround the pigs, and it is difficult to get either side to see the other's point of view. Such action as could be taken under the Public Health Act was carried out and the Council considered the making of bye-laws. The proposed bye-laws did not appear to fit the circumstances very well, so they were abandoned. The problem will

grow, however, because certain piggeries are low lying and have no drainage. When they are eventually built around connection to sewer or septic tank will become essential.

Water Supplies.

The standard of water supplied by the Mid-Wessex Water Company was consistently high throughout the town. One of the bakeries suffered with taste problems for some time, and although it was attributed to excessive chlorination this was disproved by the Water Company. The problem was not fully solved because the taste disappeared, but the origin is thought to be more local in the form of warm supply pipes, etc., in the building.

Swimming Pool.

During the Spring the new open air swimming pool opened and, due to a good summer, it was put to such good use that teething troubles were amplified. At one time it was necessary to use a Chloros mixture because the chlorine gas was in short supply, but fortunately difficulties were surmounted and the bacteriological results of the water were good. Advice was given concerning general cleaning methods, including the removal of algal growths, and soon after the opening it was considered advisable to remove the softwood duckboards in the changing cubicles because of possible infection of tinea pedis, and other skin troubles.

Inspections and Notices.

On general sanitary matters, 319 inspections of various kinds were carried out. Several letters and informal notices were sent out and in every case work was completed without resort to Statutory action. The number of visits on Housing, Food and Drugs, etc., are set out in those sections of this report devoted to them.

Factories Act.

Premises, Inspections, Outwork—See Appendix, Table 1.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act.

Various parts of this Act came into force during the year. The first major step was the registration of those premises employing staff. Unfortunately the response was poor, due mainly to almost complete lack of national advertising. Consequently at the end of the registration period only an estimated 50% of the premises had complied. Further efforts were made to advise people of the requirements, and a circular letter to known traders brought in more registrations which by the end of the year stood at approximately 90%. Administration of the Act would be considerably easier if all business premises were required to register whether employment is carried on or not.

Where general inspections have been carried out it became apparent that premises are below standard to a greater or lesser extent in the town, and after another 12 months' of inspections a better indication of the problems will emerge.

Premises, Employees, Inspections—See Appendix IV, Table 2.

Pet Animals Act, Game Dealers, Metal Dealers—See Appendix, Table 3.

Noise Abatement Act.

Two complaints were received specifically concerning noise. The first came from the rural area and concerned vibrations from ventilating fans on hen batteries. On investigation it was found that although the fans had been used for a number of years the running time had been increased, particularly during the night, because of the fine summer weather. Apart from the fact that this state of affairs is unlikely to occur very frequently the resulting intensity of sound was not considered to be a public health nuisance.

The second complaint was of ice cream vending chimes, which present a constant problem to health departments, especially as the current trend is to sell ice cream in this fashion throughout the year. Several verbal warnings were given to vendors chiming outside the recognised hours, but no real step forward will be achieved until more individual members of the public object directly to the offending vendor.

An application was received from a local fuel merchant to use chimes, but as this is not exempted in the Act, it was thankfully rejected.

SECTION II
Housing Circumstances

Housing Acts.

Slum Clearance and Repairs.

During the year work was continued towards the completion of the five-year programme and other properties were dealt with as thought necessary.

Unfit houses on which demolition orders were issued	...	7
Unfit houses demolished	... ..	2
Unfit houses on which undertakings to repair were received	...	4
Unfit houses on which undertakings not to occupy were received		4
Houses on which undertakings were cancelled	... ..	1
Houses from which persons were displaced	... ..	13
Persons displaced and rehoused	... ..	34

Further details—See Appendix, Table 4.

Overcrowding.

A serious case of overcrowding was discovered when a housing application revealed a family of seven adults, comprising of a mother, two sons and four daughters, were occupying a flat consisting of one living room, one bedroom, an insanitary box-room and a kitchen. Although the offence appeared to be an attempt to force the Council's hand on housing, it was reluctant either to take an enforcement action or re-house the family.

As fate would have it, the flat was the subject of a Town Planning enforcement order issued by the Hampshire County Council because of the illegal conversion of the original house into three flats. This enabled the Council to assist with housing without reversing previous decisions and the family were rehabilitated after a period of nearly 12 months' overcrowding.

Improvements.

The Housing Act, 1964, came into force enabling the Council to compulsorily improve areas where tenanted houses are still short of such amenities as baths, hot water supplies, etc., with the aid of a grant. These powers should be very useful in Alton where the slum clearance programme is virtually completed and yet houses are still without modern facilities. It is hoped that an area will be considered in the near future.

No individual applications from tenants were received in 1964.

Rent Acts.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received, but advice was given concerning the Act and its effects on several occasions. More work was necessary on advising tenants subject to eviction notices and the new Protection from Eviction Act, which became operative in the latter part of the year, clarified many tenants' problems.

Moveable Dwellings.

There are two licenced caravan sites within the town's boundaries making a total of only five caravans in all. Trouble was experienced from time to time with odd vans parking in parts of the area, but the usual persuasion was all that was necessary in most cases. A complaint was received concerning accumulations and tree cutting on land adjacent to the hop pickers' encampment, but this was kept to a minimum.

Inspections.

A total of 318 inspections of various kinds were carried out on the general theme of housing.

Council House Management, Allocations.

A total of 101 allocations of various types were made during

the year by the Housing Committee. This figure included the housing of 54 families from the waiting list, which represented a high percentage of the current needy cases. As building is still proceeding it is anticipated that this good record will continue.

It is now recognised that the need for industrial development in the town will only be satisfied if houses for key workers are made available to would-be new industries, and it is hoped that a greater number of new dwellings will be allocated in this direction in the coming year.

During the year 58 new dwellings were completed and two purchased for letting, bringing the total of Council controlled properties to 991, which represents almost exactly one third of all domestic properties in the area.

Further details—See Appendix, Table 5.

Repairs.

During the year it was decided that Council houses should be inspected by a Public Health Inspector not less than once every three years and on exchange of tenancy. As this was not fully operative in 1964 no measure of the inspections' value can be made. It is hoped that high standard of maintenance can be achieved by a partnership on repairs between Council and tenant.

Cleaning.

Three blocks of three-storey flats were completed, and as this type of accommodation is new in the town it was thought necessary for the Council to take responsibility for cleaning the internal access stairs. The part-time employment of a female cleaner living elsewhere on the Manor Estate has proved successful, and when the fourth and final block is finished the total hours worked will be 21 per week.

Special Housing for Aged Persons, Warden's Scheme, Victoria Road East.

Early in the year 40 dwellings were brought into a scheme for housing the elderly. They are a mixture of 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom and bed-sitting room accommodation, and each dwelling is connected to the warden's flat by a bell system. Aged persons were placed into one of three categories according to the degree of attention required. Those in need rate for a grant from the County Council, paid to Alton Council.

The system worked well, and most of the teething troubles have been overcome. At the end of the year nine dwellings were in Category A and 11 in B, both qualifying for a grant, and the remainder in Category C did not.

SECTION III

Supervision of Food and Food Premises

Milk.

No treatment of milk is done in the town and delivery is carried out by three distributors. Sales are also made from eight licensed retailers in the area.

Two complaints were received concerning foreign bodies in milk bottles. The first was of a moss-like material and it was made the subject of a prosecution by the County Council which resulted in a conviction, and fine of £15 plus costs. The other was an extra foil top in the bottle, and in this case it was passed directly to the Company concerned, who investigated the matter.

Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the town as such, although several mobile vendors come into the area with soft ice cream machines and the freezing and overrun process is done on the vehicle. There are 46 registered retailers in the area, most of which sell wrapped hard ice cream and no trouble arose from it. As always, bad handling occurred on the mobile traders' vans. On most occasions an inspection revealed several contraventions of various regulations and on re-inspection of the van some time later very often the vendor had changed, and the education had to start again. It must be realised that the high standard of hygiene required with the production of soft ice cream and the general low standard of vendor are incompatible.

Food Complaints.

Apart from the two milk cases there were four complaints concerning food. The first was of tainted eggs which proved to be stale stock and the cause was quickly remedied. The other three concerned mouldy food and were passed to the Hampshire County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. Public Health Inspectors were required to act as witnesses in the resulting court cases.

(a) Mr. A. Brooks, of 112, High Street, pleaded guilty of selling a mouldy steak pie and the court imposed a fine of £5 plus £11/5/6d. costs.

(b) F. A. and H. Buck, Ltd., trading as "Bucks," at 19A, High Street, pleaded not guilty to selling mouldy custard tarts. After a drawn-out hearing the case was found proved and the fine imposed was £40 plus £22/10/10d. costs.

(c) Mr. F. Buck, trading as "Henry Adlam," in the Market Square, pleaded guilty to selling a mouldy Italian flan and the court imposed a fine of £30 plus £9/3/0d. costs.

Sampling.

Report of the Chief Sampling Officer for 1964/65

1 During the year ended the 31st March, 1965, 39 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Alton Urban District Council.

2 **Milk Samples.** Nineteen samples of milk, including 10 of Channel Islands, were procured, one only being unsatisfactory. This affected a bottle of milk delivered to a school and which was found to contain a large amount of what transpired to be garden soil. Legal proceedings were taken against the dairy company responsible, who were fined £15 and ordered to pay £8/17/0d. costs.

3 **Miscellaneous Samples.** Twenty samples of articles other than milk were obtained, five (three of which arose from consumer complaints) being the subject of adverse report, as follows:—

A sample of pork sausage meat was found to contain only 41 per cent of meat instead of the normally accepted minimum of 65 per cent. Although there is no official standard for the meat content of sausages and sausage meat, pork sausage products generally contain at least 65 per cent of meat and, in fact, the average of samples of such articles taken within the County last year was nearer 70 per cent. In view of the substantial deficiency involved in this case, legal proceedings were taken under the general provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, and these resulted in the butcher responsible being fined £5 and ordered to pay £22/3/0d. costs.

A relatively minor complaint with regard to the label of a sample of “Mousse with Sauce” was referred to the packers, with a view to suitable amendments being made. The wrapper of the article showed a list of ingredients, but referred to the inclusion of “vegetable butters,” whereas the correct description would have been “edible oil or fat.” The composition of the article was otherwise satisfactory.

4 **General.** In addition to the Food and Drugs Act, attention was given to provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act with regard to their application to the labelling and descriptions of food and drugs.

Food Poisoning.

On two occasions during the year a case of severe diarrhoea was reported from a school kitchen. Both cases were excluded from work and faecal specimen taken immediately. Fortunately negative results followed and infection did not spread. Routine specimen checks were taken from all the other employees.

Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food.

Food traders continued to surrender unsound food and the system worked smoothly during the year.

Details—See Appendix, Table VI.

Food Hygiene.

Some 141 premises, stalls and mobile traders are covered by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, in the town. A total of 526 inspections were carried out and 11 letters sent to occupiers requiring works to be done for compliance with the legislation. A great number of verbal warnings were also given. In most cases work was done fairly quickly and no statutory action was taken.

Details of Premises—See Appendix Table VII.

Dirty Grocer's Shop.

On inspection of shop premises at 18A, Old Acre Road, it was found that conditions were very poor. The premises were dirty, no proper facilities were maintained and the food rooms infested with mice. A comprehensive letter was immediately sent to the occupier, but some three months and several visits later no improvement was shown. A further detailed inspection was made and photographs taken of various items. A report was placed before the Public Health Committee recommending legal action on 23 contraventions of the Hygiene Regulations. In the meantime, however, the shop was closed down and the Committee did not feel justified in taking the matter further. The premises have remained closed since.

Alton Market.

The normal compliment of food stalls in the Market during the year was two greengrocers, one grocer, one farm produce retailer and one general dealer selling some food. The standard was as high as can be expected, although a watchful eye had to be kept on such things as smoking, food at ground level and damaged canned goods. As the sanitary facilities used by traders are the public conveniences some 50 yards from the Market, no unwrapped food is allowed to be offered for sale, apart from fruit and vegetables.

The auction room used on Market days for the sale of chicken, rabbits, hares, pheasants and pigeons, as well as general smallholders' produce, leaves something to be desired from a hygienic point of view. During the year, however, improvement was made to the tables and shelves used for poultry and the cleanliness improved greatly.

Mobile Traders.

Fortunately in the town area there is no call for mobile groceries, and in consequence the vans are usually restricted to bread and greengrocery. For some part of the year an old coach was used for grocery trading and it was found to be in a very dirty state. After several warnings further action was threatened

and the van ceased to trade. I have already commented on the ice cream vendors.

Meat Inspection.

The slaughterhouse in Kent Lane remained operational throughout the year and was licenced under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Licences were issued to six slaughtermen, although from a practical point of view the work was done mainly by one man and his assistants.

A total of 15,525 animals were slaughtered for food during the year.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, were put into operation with difficulty, one of the main problems being identification of carcasses, offals, etc. From 3rd February, 1964, charges were imposed for the service and a total of £572/8/0d. was collected.

Meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 6 tons 14cwt. 2qtrs. and 12lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned — See Appendix Table VIII.

Diseases for which Whole Carcasses and Organs were Condemned—See Appendix Table IX.

Diseases for which Organs and Part Carcasses were Condemned—See Appendix Table X.

SECTION IV

Miscellaneous

Atmospheric Pollution.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, was operated when necessary, but fortunately no Statutory action was required to abate smoke nuisances.

Several notifications were received of furnace installations, all but one being gas fired. The one exception was the new plant in Anstey Mill Lane of Victoria Foundries and Engineering (Alton), Ltd. This consisted of two 51" coke fired, drop bottom cupolas consuming half a ton of fuel per hour. After consultation the height of the two chimney stacks from ground level to the top of the grit arresters was agreed at 56' 0"

There was no apparent shortage of solid smokeless fuels of many varieties during the winter months, but from the limited evidence available householders seem reluctant to use other than bituminous coal on their domestic fires, even where they are financially able. Domestic smoke tends to accumulate in parts of the town and there may well be a case for compulsory smoke control once the national problem in the "black areas" has been eradicated.

Pest Control.

Various accumulations and harbourages were cleared and no Statutory action was necessary under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Unfortunately residents still insist on encouraging rodents with waste food, either carelessly handled or put out for birds.

An improvement in the service was possible over the previous year because an operative was available for 10 months. As the work only warrants part-time employment it is very difficult to find and retain the type of man required for this skilled work. During the year 230 treatments were carried out for rats and mice.

Unfortunately only one 10% treatment of sewers was possible and 45 manholes were baited. Subsequent visits revealed very little rodent activity.

A total of 1,073 visits were carried out by all officers involved. These included treatment for rats, mice, moles and wasps.

The North Hants Rodent Control Committee continued its quarterly meetings, enabling member Authorities to keep up to date with latest developments, current area and national problems and Ministry requirements. Councillor Carr accompanied me once more to these meetings.

Public Relations.

Although no specific effort was made by way of exhibitions, etc., to promote understanding between the Department and the public, every opportunity was taken to encourage good relations and to educate the public, at home and in the work-place, on the subject of environmental health.

As in previous years talks were given to various local organisations, and the annual one to Alton Eggars Grammar School was supplemented by interesting films on pest control and decay in buildings.

APPENDIX

TABLE I

Factories Act, 1961

Registered Premises and Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	2	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	12	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	-	-
Total...	54	13	-	-

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total...	-	-	-	-	-

Outwork.

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Total...	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II
Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act

Class of Premises	No. of prem. regd. during the year	Total no. of regd. prem. at end of year	No. of persons employed	No. of regd. prem receiv- ing a general inspection during year	No. of visits of all kinds to regd. premises
Offices	54	54	303	nil	54
Retail Shops	94	92	429	3	
Wholesale Shops					
Warehouses	8	8	15	nil	
Catering Establishments open to the public					
Canteens	14	14	93	nil	
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	1	nil	
Totals	171	169	841	3	

TABLE III
Pet Animals Act, 1951
Licence Holders, 1964.

Mr. F. Beresford	...	...	...	9, Normandy Street.
M. A. Rose & Son (Farnham), Ltd.	...	...	...	23, Market Street.
Messrs. Martin & Stratford	...	...	...	Alton Market.
Mr. S. A. Wyer	...	...	...	Alton Market.

Local Government Act, 1894

Game Dealers Licence Holders, 1964.

Mr. W. W. Saint	...	...	...	...	Highmead Bungalow, Old Odiham Road.
Messrs. Martin & Stratford	...	...	...	...	Alton Market.
Messrs. P. L. Mortara	...	...	...	...	64, High Street.
Mr. W. G. Wallace	...	...	...	...	28, High Street.
Mr. K. Read	...	...	...	...	4, Normandy Street.
Mr. G. Ware	...	...	...	...	29, Normandy Street.
Messrs. Gallup & Lucas	...	...	...	...	110, High Street.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907

Registered Metal Dealers Premises.

Mr. F. Lee	...	...	...	...	Mill Lane.
Mr. H. Davis	...	...	...	...	Mount Pleasant Road.
Mr. C. Gale	...	...	...	...	1, Cut Pound, Tanhouse Lane.

TABLE IV

Housing Acts.

Procedure and Premises	Total	Displaced Persons
Unfit Houses on which Demolition Orders were Issued		
Mount Pleasant Road 66-77 (incl.)	7	19
Unfit Houses Demolished		
Brick Kiln Lane 1 & 2	2	nil
Unfit Houses on which Undertakings to Repair were received		
Cut Pound 1 & 2	2	nil
Anstey Mill Cottages 1 & 2	2	nil
Unfit Houses on which Undertakings Not to Occupy were Received		
Cut Pound 3 & 4	2	6
Medstead Road "Gatehouse"	1	1
High Street 77A	1	5
Houses on which Undertakings were Cancelled		
High Street 102	1	
Houses Dealt With before 1964 but Vacated in the Year		
Normandy Place 3	1	2
French Horn Cottages 1	1	1

TABLE V

Council Dwellings Allocation.

Allocations	Source of Accommodation
From Waiting List ... 54	New Dwellings ... 58
From Slum Clearance ... 13	Dwellings Purchased ... 2
For Town Planning Enforcement 2	Vacancies ... 21
For Key Workers ... 6	
For Staff ... 6	
Exchanges ... 20	Exchanges ... 20
Total 101	Total 101

TABLE VI

Voluntary Surrender of Unsound Food.

Canned or Bottled Foods		Fresh Foods	
Meats ...	287lbs.	Meat (other than at Slaughterhouse)	247lbs.
Fish ...	21lbs.	Chickens ...	69
Fruits ...	166lbs.	Rabbits ...	5
Vegetables ...	19lbs.	Bacon ...	27lbs.
Cream ...	11lb.	Pheasants ...	28 brace
Milk (Evaporated or Condensed)	16pts.	Fish ...	4 stones
Puddings ...	3lbs.		
Jam ...	10lbs.		

TABLE VII

Food Premises.

Caterers ...	13	Canteens ...	5	Egg Stations ...	1
Butchers ...	11	School Canteens	6	Market Stalls	5
Fishmongers ...	4	Breweries ...	3	Food Auction	
Grocers ...	29	Hotels ...	7	Rooms ...	1
Greengrocers ...	9	Public Houses	13	Confectioners	7
Bakehouses ...	2	Off Licences ...	5	Chemists ...	3
Breadshops ...	3	Slaughterhouses	1	Mobile Traders	13

TABLE VIII

Animal Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed and Inspected ...	1,567	939	5,572	7,447
All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci :				
Whole carcase condemned ...	5	17	8	62
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	297	1	181	434
Percentage of the number inspected infected with diseases other than T.B. or Cysticerci ...	19.3%	1.9%	3.4%	6.7%
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	49
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B. ...	-	-	-	0.66%
Cysticercosis :				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned ...	-	-	-	-

TABLE IX
Animal Diseases for which Whole Carcasses and Organs were
Condemned.

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Anaemia ...	-	-	-	5	5
Abscesses ...	-	3	-	8	11
Emaciation ...	1	-	3	2	6
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	4	4
Fever ...	1	1	-	12	14
Injury ...	1	-	3	-	4
Oedema ...	2	2	2	3	9
Pyæmia ...	-	2	-	5	7
Septicæmia ...	-	6	-	7	13
Septic Peritonitis ...	-	1	-	9	10
Septic Pleuresy ...	-	2	-	3	5
Tumours ...	-	-	-	3	3
Uraemia ...	-	-	-	1	1
	5	17	8	62	92

TABLE X
Animal Diseases for which Organs and Part Carcasses were
Condemned.

Disease	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Heads :					
Actino Bacillosis ...	2	-	-	-	2
Abscess ...	4	-	-	21	25
Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-	49	49
Lungs :					
Abscesses ...	2	-	-	-	2
Ascarides ...	-	-	-	90	90
Congestion ...	2	-	-	6	8
Emphysemia ...	-	1	-	1	2
Pleuresy ...	2	-	4	120	126
Pneumonia ...	4	-	-	68	72
Strongylus rufescens ...	-	-	78	-	78
Hearts :					
Cysticercosis ...	4	-	-	-	4
Pericarditis ...	4	-	-	122	126
Livers :					
Abscesses ...	52	-	-	-	52
Ascarides ...	-	-	-	251	251
B. Necrosis ...	-	-	32	-	32
C. Angioma ...	58	-	-	-	58
Distomatosis ...	152	-	104	-	256
Fatty Degeneration ...	2	-	-	-	2
Hydatid Cysts ...	-	-	6	-	6
Peritonitis ...	-	-	10	90	100
Kidneys :					
Abscesses ...	4	-	-	-	4
Nephritis ...	-	-	-	33	33
Udders :					
Mastitis ...	-	-	-	2	2
Part Carcasses :					
Abscesses ...	-	-	-	8	8
Arthritis ...	2	-	-	12	14
Bruising ...	3	-	-	3	6
Calloused ...	4	-	-	-	4
Injury ...	3	-	-	15	18

C. Mills & Co. (Printers), Alton
